

COURT IS WALL ST. OFFICE TO BELMONT

Defending Verner Suit He and
His Associates Keep
Business Going.

MESSAGERS ON THE JUMP

Mrs. Belmont Present to Hear
Praise of Husband's Sub-
way Finance.

The opening day of the trial of the suit of Clarence H. Verner and the Continental Securities Company against the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, August Belmont and other directors of the company moved over to the court of Justice Van Sicken, Brooklyn, yesterday, an unusual array of lawyers and Wall Street financiers.

Verner's purpose in bringing the suit is to compel August Belmont to return to the Interborough 15,000 shares of Interborough stock voted to Belmont & Co. for its services in organizing and financing the original subway company and partly in payment for the franchises of the Pelham Bay Park and City Island railroads. Mr. Belmont was on land early in the morning, accompanied by Mrs. Belmont, who spent the greater part of the morning in the afternoon for her husband in the afternoon, toward the time of adjournment, August Belmont, Jr., was also an interested spectator.

Other important defendants in court were Cornelius Vanderbilt, Andrew Freedman, John N. Peirce, Gardner M. Lane, J. Lee Higginson & Co., William A. Board of Road & Co., and Walter G. Oakman. Many of them were accompanied by office boys, secretaries and assistants who were ready to take orders. As the day wore on the need of the lawyers and assistants was apparent. Telegrams and letters arrived for the various defendants, and while the financiers were waiting for the trial actually to begin they attended to business matters.

Belmont Keeps Busy.

August Belmont kept himself especially busy. While keeping busy on the trial he turned to his personal mail, opening the letters with a paper cutter and dictating replies to his stenographer. He received and sent cable messages. He had time also to attend to the business of Belmont & Co. Mr. Belmont was represented by Joseph S. Auerbach of Davies, Auerbach, Cornell & Barry, De Lancey Nicol and Courtland S. Auerbach of the Interborough directors. J. Aspinwall Dodge represented Mr. Verner.

The contention of the defendants is that the suit of Mr. Verner was not started in good faith and that the stock voted to Belmont & Co. was in return for services rendered. The progress of the trial is being out in detail the early financing and the development of the company.

It was in one of the preliminary stages of the present suit that Mr. Belmont called Mr. Verner "a practical blackmailer" and in turn was sued by Mr. Verner for \$100,000 for alleged libel. This suit later was withdrawn.

Mr. Auerbach in his opening maintained that the transaction was in no way improper. He questioned Verner's good faith on the grounds that while the total sum involved ran into the millions, Verner's own distributive share would be only \$2,000.

Defends Sale of Franchises.

Defending the acquisition by the Interborough of the franchises of the Pelham Bay and City Island railroads, which Mr. Belmont long ago transferred to Belmont & Co. for which the Interborough was included in the 15,000 shares of stock, Mr. Auerbach said:

"The transaction complained of by Verner was not only of meeting the benefit to the corporation but it was conducted with candor and frankness which characterizes all of Mr. Belmont's acts."

Mr. Nicol in his address said that the plaintiff himself could not dare take the witness stand and submit to a cross-examination on the methods pursued by him for years to extort money from corporations. He then gave a glimpse of the services which Mr. Belmont rendered in helping the building of the subway. He said that John B. McDonald, the builder, had been assured by several surety companies that they would go his bond. "When the time came," he said, "for them to carry out their part they refused because they saw that the enterprise was too dangerous. Mr. McDonald never could have carried out the enterprise without the assistance of August Belmont."

The first witness will be called this morning.

ADELE RITCHIE IN AUTO SMASH.

Actress Shaken Up When Surface
Car Hits Machine.

Mrs. Charles Nelson Bell, whose stage name is Adele Ritchie, was severely shaken up last night when the automobile in which she was riding was struck by a westbound surface car at Seventh avenue and 116th street.

She was on her way from her summer home in Rye, N. Y., to her home in the Laureate Hotel in this city, accompanied by her maid.

Lyman A. Merrill, her negro driver, thought he could cross 116th street ahead of the car, but he missed his guess. The car was damaged. Mrs. Bell drove to the hotel in a taxicab.

FIEDLER REPUDIATES BOSSES.

Makes Stokes Present of Smith and
Nugent, Quoted by Wilson.

THURSDAY, N. Y., Sept. 29.—Governor Fiedler today served notice on State Treasurer Edward E. Grosscup that he wanted him to withdraw as a candidate for reelection at the election of the Democratic state committee. He then issued a statement that he neither wanted nor expected the support of former United States Senator James Smith, Jr., or James H. Nugent at the coming election.

In addition to repudiating Smith and Nugent, following the example of President Wilson, Gov. Fiedler declared that he wanted to see the Democratic party organized of Essex county as represented by them lined up for former Governor Stokes, the Republican candidate for Governor. He charged that Smith and Nugent had worked before for Stokes and predicted that they would do so again. He also declared them as being without party principles.

TRAINING SHIP ENDS CRUISE.

Brings Back 65 Bronze Cadets for
Graduation Tomorrow.

Fresh painted and with polished metal glistening in the sun, the training ship Newport of the New York Naval School arrived here yesterday afternoon. At 4 o'clock she was anchored off the Department of Correction's pier at Twenty-sixth street. Sixty-five bronze cadets answered the bugle for supper formation at 4:30 and marched below to a meal typical of all deep sea vessels.

Today the ship will be warped into her pier, No. 72 East River, at the turn of the tide and the ship will be given a few more scrubdowns to clean her white spots for the morning.

Speakers at Dedication of Sam S. Shubert Theatre

Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Miss Julia Marlowe (Mrs. E. N. Sothorn), De Wolf Hopper, Winthrop Ames, Lady Forbes-Robertson (Miss Gertrude Elliott)



The new Sam S. Shubert Theatre in West Forty-fourth street, built by Lee and J. J. Shubert and named in memory of their brother, the founder of the theatrical firm, who lost his life in a railroad accident several years ago, was formally dedicated yesterday afternoon at a reception tendered to Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson and Lady Robertson (Miss Gertrude Elliott), who are to open the theatre on Thursday night with a performance of "Hamlet."

The theatre was filled with men and women well known in literary, theatrical and musical life.

De Wolf Hopper, who presided, explained that E. N. Sothorn, who is to play "Hamlet" at the Manhattan Opera House with his wife, Julia Marlowe, in a Shakespearean repertoire, had decided not to tempt the strength of his voice, as he was suffering from a slight cold, and that he had asked Miss Marlowe to read what he had said. For her husband Miss Marlowe read:

"It would seem superfluous to introduce Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson to this assembly, but since that is a happy privilege it is pleasant indeed to welcome him back to America on behalf of his fellow actors in this country, and indeed in the name of all persons who care for what is best and noblest in the theatre—to wish him great success in this farewell tour and to congratulate him heartily on the new distinction which has been conferred upon him; of all the great English actors who have been so honored none has more rightly deserved it, and surely none will wear it more worthily."

"Sir Johnston and Lady Forbes-Robertson, permit me to wish you a triumphant progress and in your well earned retirement, in the height of your power, all possible happiness."

In replying to Miss Marlowe's speech Sir Johnston said: "I am proud and flattered at the kind welcome from Mr. Sothorn, who has made in every direction such remarkable progress you have held up the highest traditions of the drama. They have won a unique position in the United States and Canada, and it is indeed a very great honor that I should receive such words of praise from them. Ladies and gentlemen, these expressions are doubly gratifying to me and I am deeply moved by them. At the beginning of my career forty years ago I said to myself, 'Let me please my brother actors and I do not care what comes after.' Since that night I have been striving to do that, and I am proud to say that I have been able to do so."

"After the scene had been removed from the stage a reception was held and when his comrades speak such a splendid tribute as Mr. and Mrs. Sothorn have just paid me."

"This theatre, as you know, has been dedicated to Sam Shubert. I think that it is a very beautiful thing to dedicate such a handsome building to one who has passed away. It is well enough to name a theatre after your own name while living, but it is a fine idea for one brother to show to the world his love and respect for his deceased brother by erecting such a noble temple as this to his memory."

"I do not feel that I am a forerunner. I have watched your progress for six and twenty years. Such vast improvements you have made in every direction. Such remarkable progress you have made in the art of the actor. It is very near to my heart that American and Englishmen are becoming more and more closely united."

"Permit me to say that my farewell does not include my wife! She, I trust, will go through with me to my first night in your city, which has treated us so kindly in the past."

Lady Forbes-Robertson then said: "Thank you so much. Thank you. It is perfectly lovely to see you again. After the scene had been removed from the stage a reception was held and when his comrades speak such a splendid tribute as Mr. and Mrs. Sothorn have just paid me."

Two surgeons lay in New York hospital in a critical condition last night as a result of blood poisoning contracted during operations. One of them, Dr. William J. Morrison, president of the faculty of Williamsburg Hospital and surgeon in chief of the first surgical division, was not expected to live.

The other, Dr. Louis H. Brown, of Bellevue Hospital, had a temperature of 105.

Surgeons of the Williamsburg Hospital said that there was little hope for Dr. Morrison. A second operation for the blood poisoning caused by a needle prick was held last night, but the infection had spread beyond the shoulder.

Dr. Morrison's injury was inflicted accidentally last Sunday. Parents of Edward J. Morrison, a second-year student at the hospital, brought the ill child to the hospital in the morning. Dr. Morrison diagnosed the case as a ruptured appendix, requiring immediate operation, which he performed. He found that the appendix was inflamed and had perforated.

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SAYS TRAINMEN RIDE IN AUTOS.

Witness Before Arbitrators Denies
They Married Heiresses, Too.

Arbitrators of the demands of the trainmen and conductors of the Eastern railroad struck a snag yesterday, when they reached article P of the demands. This provides:

"Upon roads having a better basis for a day's work, or for payment of overtime, the adoption of the foregoing rates and rules shall not operate as a reduction thereof."

W. G. Lee, representing the trainmen, said that article P was one of the demands which the employees most valued, but A. H. Smith, vice-president of the New York Central Railroad and W. W. Atterbury, vice-president of the Pennsylvania, the representatives of the railroad, were very much opposed to it.

It was finally decided to postpone the consideration of article P to a later day. John Patterson, trainmaster of the Pittsburgh division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, said that the present wages were liberal. As an offset to the plea of increased living since 1915, he said the increases in wages in many cases more than outbalanced this increased cost.

Referring to the testimony of E. R. Hewitt, the assistant trainmaster of the Bessmer and Lake Erie Railroad, that some of the conductors on his division were able to own automobiles, the witness said that he also knew employees who had automobiles.

"Then they must have been men who married rich women," said Patterson. Mr. Patterson explained that he knew of no cases of employees marrying heiresses, and that one of the men he knew who owned an automobile was an unmarried brakeman.

Charles F. Ray, a trainmaster on the western division of the New York Central Railroad, who was called after Mr. Patterson left the stand, will complete his testimony today.

Mr. Elliott said he would see that the facts are properly set forth in the records of the New Haven period.

He said that the total amount standing on the company's books for the seven months from January 1 to June 30, in the account of "other expenses," was \$101,533. Mr. Elliott asserts that in the statement to the commission for each of the first six months a debit in black figures is given for the total, and that for the month of June a credit of \$117,988 is shown in red figures.

The difference, it was said, was due to a change in bookkeeping methods adopted at the suggestion of the Interstate Commerce Commission, advertising expenses being shifted from "general expenses" to "traffic expenses." The road credited "other expenses" for June with \$117,988, which, subtracted from the total of debits during the first six months, leaves a balance to "other expenses" of \$101,533.

Mr. Elliott said that if the red figures and the black figures are added the total will be \$224,469, and this sort of arithmetic makes an error of twice the amount of the credit, which is to say, \$224,936, which, it has been said, was the amount of money unaccounted for by the railroad.

Mr. Elliott says he will furnish all information he can obtain about these matters or about any persons to Charles S. McNeil, representative of the road.

BANQUET IN HONOR OF C. W. POST

Battle Creek Business Men Applaud
His Work for the City.

DETROIT, Sept. 29.—In recognition of his services to the city, business men of Battle Creek gave a banquet to-night with C. W. Post as the guest of honor. Applauded his work for the city.

Following a recent political attack on Mr. Post several thousand citizens signed a resolution which in effect asked him to disregard the political rumor and continue to devote his efforts to the upbuilding of the city.

The banquet was an outgrowth of the testimonial.

OUT OF TOWN OPENINGS.

Many New York People Go to Detroit to See "The Beauty Shop."

DETROIT, Sept. 29.—"The Beauty Shop," a new play by Channing Pollock and Kenneth Wolf, was presented here to-night at the Detroit Theatre. Raymond Hitchcock is starring in the piece. A large number of friends of Colby and Harris, who presented the play, came on from New York for the initial performance.

BUFFALO, Sept. 29.—John Mason appeared here to-night at the Star Theatre in "Indian Summer," a new play by Augustus Thomas. Martha Hedison appeared in the principal feminine role.

MONTEAL, Sept. 29.—The large Arena was completely sold out and hundreds turned away to-night at the opening of "The Beauty Shop," a new play by Channing Pollock and Kenneth Wolf, was presented here to-night at the Detroit Theatre. Raymond Hitchcock is starring in the piece. A large number of friends of Colby and Harris, who presented the play, came on from New York for the initial performance.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—President Wilson attended the Columbia Theatre to-night to witness the initial performance of "The Beauty Shop," a new play by Channing Pollock and Kenneth Wolf, was presented here to-night at the Detroit Theatre. Raymond Hitchcock is starring in the piece. A large number of friends of Colby and Harris, who presented the play, came on from New York for the initial performance.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 29.—"The Red Canary," with Lina Abrahams in the leading role, had its first presentation on any stage to-night at Ford's Opera House. A large audience, which included Gov. Goldsborough and Mayor Preston, gave the piece a hearty welcome.

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NEW HAVEN BOND ISSUE IN COMMISSION'S HANDS

Closing Arguments Made—El-
liott Tells About Road's
"Other Expenses."

Boston, Sept. 29.—Closing arguments on the petition of the New Haven railroad for the Public Service Commission's approval of a \$7,000,000 bond issue were heard today, and the matter was taken under advisement by the board.

H. L. Brown, counsel for the commission, spoke vigorously against the issue, which Charles F. Choate, Jr., representing the New Haven, defended the plan. Mr. Choate was questioned closely at nearly every step by members of the board, particularly Mr. Anderson, and occasionally by Chairman MacLeod.

President Elliott of the New Haven said a letter to-day to Gov. Fox in regard to the letter's appeal to the commission to investigate the statement that the railroad spent \$377,000 during the period submitted covered by the last session of the Legislature for "personal services" and "other expenses."

Mr. Elliott said he would see that the facts are properly set forth in the records of the New Haven period.

He said that the total amount standing on the company's books for the seven months from January 1 to June 30, in the account of "other expenses," was \$101,533. Mr. Elliott asserts that in the statement to the commission for each of the first six months a debit in black figures is given for the total, and that for the month of June a credit of \$117,988 is shown in red figures.

The difference, it was said, was due to a change in bookkeeping methods adopted at the suggestion of the Interstate Commerce Commission, advertising expenses being shifted from "general expenses" to "traffic expenses." The road credited "other expenses" for June with \$117,988, which, subtracted from the total of debits during the first six months, leaves a balance to "other expenses" of \$101,533.

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